



Dear parents and carers

As we come to the end of another very busy term at Odessa I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your continued support for the school. We have had lots of events and celebrations this term and you, the parents, always attend and offer your support. We have a fantastic community at Odessa and I would like to wish a very Happy Christmas to all who are celebrating and a happy and healthy new year to you all.

Clare Barber
Headteacher



Harvest Festival at Odessa

Thank you for your generous food donations for the Harvest. The children performed wonderful songs to celebrate this occasion. The food went to a local food bank, the donations were much appreciated. Great to support a local initiative to help people in our community who need it the most.



Diwali Assembly

The children sang songs to the parents and carers to celebrate Diwali.



The children also spoke about why Diwali is a special celebration. They were confident and enjoyed performing to the parents and carers.



Thank you to everyone that came to watch the assembly.

Year 1's visit to Emmanuel Church



The year 1 classes visited Emmanuel church as part of, 'Places of Worship' learning. They learnt about the Christmas story. There were lots of different play based activities for the children to get involved in. Each year group gets to visit different places of worship during their time at Odessa. This enables our children to learn about Newham's rich cultural diversity.



Year 2's visit to the Natural History Museum

The year 2 classes had a fantastic visit to the Natural History Museum. The visit consolidated their learning about Mary Anning the fossil hunter, bringing her story to life. The children spent time exploring other areas of the museum and demonstrated awe and wonder at the different exhibitions!



Spring 1 - Learning & Topics

Reception:

In reception the topic is 'Space' and the children will be learning all about the books, 'How to Catch a Star' and 'Lost and Found' plus more. In preparation for this topic you could engage your child in space themed activities, such as making space rockets, research the solar system or learn songs about space or even make up their own.

If you have the books at home please get your children reading them with you. Alternatively, you can access the following links to watch/listen to the stories:

How to Catch a Star

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6S7RyE80QI>

Lost and Found

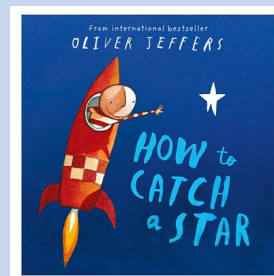
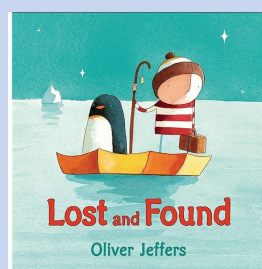
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRAAQ8EWzig>

In literacy the children will be learning:

- *To engage in extended conversation about stories, and learn new vocabulary.*
- *Spell words by identifying the sounds when writing - segmenting words e.g., 'sh, o, p - shop'*
- *Write short sentences - say the sentence first then write*
- *Year one high frequency words (document attached to this email)*

In maths the children will be focusing on number, shape, space and measures. They will be learning to:

- *Link number with its cardinal value - Children to learn that the last number reached when counting a small set of subjects tells you how many there are in total- cardinal principal.*
- *Select shapes appropriately, comparing similarities and differences between objects*
- *In practical activities understand 1 more than/1 less than relationship between consecutive numbers*



Spring 1 - Learning & Topics

Year 1:

The children will be learning about the books 'The Storm Whale', 'One Day on our Blue Planet' and 'The Leopards Drum'.

In literacy children will be focusing on:

- *Sentence construction and using adjectives*
- *Teachers will be reinforcing the use of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops*
- *Segmenting and blending words when reading*
- *Letter formation*

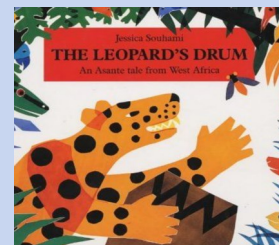
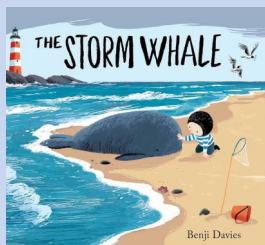
In maths children will be learning:

- *About mass and weight*
- *Revisiting and further exploring 2D and 3D shape*
- *About multiplication and division*

In Geography children will be learning about the local area:

- *To research the reason behind the name Forest Gate*
- *To research other historical features of Forest Gate*

In preparation for this topic, you could take the children to look at the key features of Forest Gate, such as the fountain and find out the history of it.



Spring 1 - Learning & Topics

Year 2:

The children will be learning about the books 'The Lonely Beast', 'Ming Lo Moves the Mountain' and will also be focusing on poetry.

In literacy children will be focusing on:

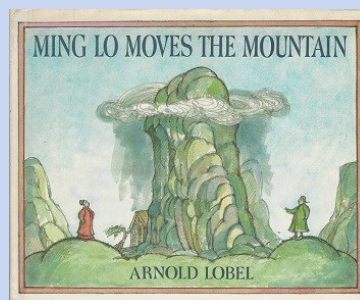
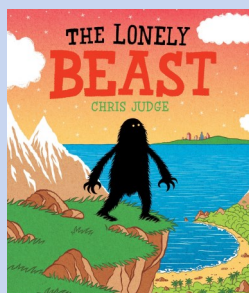
- *Past tense, report writing, speech marks, description and writing diary entries*
- *Punctuation, reasoning, predictions and noun phrases*
- *Prediction, editing and drafting, role-play and recount writing*
- *Rhyming couplets, repetition, question and answer poems, onomatopoeia, performance*

In maths children will be learning:

- *Number and place value*
- *Shape, angles, position and rotation*
- *Multiplication*
- *Division*
- *Counting and Money*

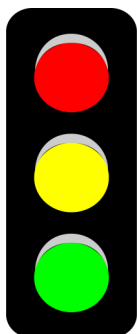
In Science children will be learning:

- *About animals: Identifying and naming animal groups (mammals, reptiles)*



Attendance Matters

Let's see which class has the best percentage. The class with the highest receives certificates to celebrate.



| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Bonsai Class - Mr. Brace | 82% |
| Palm Class - Mrs. Tai | 96% |
| Oak Class - Mr. Richards | 89% |
| Maple Class - Mrs. Reshma | 83% |
| Cherry Class - Ms. Anwar | 84% |
| Pine Class - Mr. Mineiro | 92% |



Important Dates

- **Thursday 21st December** - Last day of school - school closes at 1pm on this day
- **Wednesday 3rd January** - School open for reception, year 1 and 2 classes
- **Monday 8th January** - Nursery open for all children
- **Wednesday 17th January** - Year 1 visiting the London Seal-Life Aquarium
- **Monday 22nd January** - Parent & carer coffee morning in the hall 9am
- **Friday 9th February** - Lunar New Year assembly in the hall 2.45pm
- **Friday 9th February** - Last day of school
- **Monday 19th February** - School open for all children



Reminders

- Please remember not to use your mobile phones on the school site - we value you greeting your children and focusing your attention on them.
- Please also remind your children not to ride their bikes or scooters in the school grounds as this can be dangerous for them and others.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Attendance Matters

Newham London

It's a new year,
it's a new start,
we're here for you!



Getting back to school after the festive holidays is an exciting time when we can all make a fresh start. We are looking forward to seeing your child back at school on the first day of term.

Happy New Year.



newham.gov.uk/attendance

WE ARE NEWHAM.

Christmas Lunch and year 1 and 2 Christmas Disco

Odessa staff and pupils got into the festive spirit by having a lunch and a disco to celebrate the holidays. During the disco the children got to see some magic tricks and they also had much fun dancing under a snow machine.



Christmas Assembly

All year groups made us very proud at the Christmas assembly. The children worked very hard to learn their lines and all classes made a fantastic effort to learn their festive songs and actions. The narrators did a splendid job too! We would like to thank Mr. Brace and Mrs. Reshma for helping the children put on a wonderful performance. We were happy to see many of our parents and carers come along to watch.



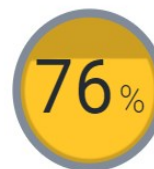
Nursery Christmas Performance

The nursery's Christmas performance was magical! It was lovely for them to have an audience to perform to and they were all super proud of themselves and so were we! Thank you to Mrs. LaRonde and the nursery staff for supporting the children to learn - a great way to develop their self-esteem and confidence!



A Big Thank You

Thank you to everyone who made donations to Children in Need - we raised £152 for this fantastic charity. The children and staff worked hard to complete the Bearpee challenge and all your support is greatly appreciated.



£152

raised of £200 target
by 14 supporters

Give Now

Share



Odessa Infant School

Odessa Infant School's fundraiser for BBC Children in Need

Fundraising for BBC Children in Need

Event: BBC Children in Need Appeal 2023, on 17 November 2023



The Bearpees Challenge

Campaign by BBC Children in Need
(RCN 802052 (England, Wales)
SC039557 (Scotland))

BBC Children in Need is back for 2023 and we want you to join us, and our official Ambassador, Joe Wicks, and take part in this unmissable fundraising challenge.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns?

If you have any concerns that you do not feel the class teachers can assist you with please contact a member of our senior leadership team: The Head Teacher - Mrs. Barber or the Deputy Head Teacher - Mrs. Tindling. You can email parents@odessa.newham.sch.uk or call the school office to make an appointment.